

California Bay-Delta Authority Committee
Drinking Water Subcommittee
Minutes
Meeting of April 1, 2005

The Drinking Water Subcommittee met on April 1 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the CALFED offices in Sacramento. Subcommittee chair Greg Gartrell welcomed the group. A list of attendees from the voluntary sign-in follows the meeting summary.

Meeting Summary

Notes from February 25, 2005

The draft notes from the February 25 meeting were approved without edits.

Regional ELPH Plan Updates

Representatives from three of the four groups that received funding from the DWS to develop regional water quality plans updated the Subcommittee on their progress and answered questions. Please visit the Drinking Water Quality Program's Web site to view all four PowerPoint presentations. Representatives from the Bay Area Water Quality and Supply Reliability Program were not present to answer questions.

Delta Region Drinking Water Quality Management Plan

Richard Denton, CCWD, addressed the group on behalf of the Delta Plan. He gave background information on the participating agencies—Solano County Water Agency, City of Stockton, and Contra Costa Water District. The key objectives of the Plan and constituents of concern that are the focus of each agency were discussed. Richard explained that locations for three case studies for Delta diverters are being examined to address concerns over the quality of Delta water supply. Versions of the ELPH diagram modified to highlight boxes being addressed and potential solutions for each agency were discussed. The focus of all the three agencies is on advanced treatment, source location and source protection. The next steps and conclusions of the Plan completed the presentation. Contact information for the Delta Plan is: Andrea Flores, Project Engineer, CCWD, 925.688.8154, aflores@ccwater.com.

In response to questions from Pankaj Parekh, Richard explained that they will be examining downstream and cumulative effects of the proposed solutions in the Plan. Protecting groundwater will not be the focus of the Plan, especially since the City of Stockton is currently experiencing a groundwater overdraw. In regards to the Solano groundwater situation, Dave Tompkins commented that MIEX treatment is very expensive, and that variability is due more to a shift in pumping locations than seasonality. BMPs to control cattle runoff are helpful but not enough.

Jennifer Clary asked why the Plan appeared pessimistic. Richard commented that the agencies involved did not want to place all of their eggs in one basket, for example by hoping that Franks Tract would be the ultimate solution. They are thus adopting the most conservative parameters and are considering a worst-case scenario.

Referring to the modified ELPH diagrams, Richard informed Aaron Ferguson that improvement to south of Delta region water quality involved pumping/timing issues and thus is considered more of a "conveyance" solution as opposed to an "imported waters" solution.

Vicki Fry commented that degraded Delta water quality appears to be more of an operational problem and not a source water quality concern. She also asked about the status of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion. Richard reported that the Bureau of Reclamation is developing a feasibility report for Congress, and that scoping will happen in the late summer/early fall.

Steve Macaulay requested that the Plan consider the interrelationships between the participating agencies and the cities of Manteca and Sacramento. He also commented on the limitations of the ELPH diagrams and praised the project proponents for putting the objectives into this framework.

Northern Sacramento Valley Regional (4 County) Drinking Water Quality Strategy

Lou Regenmorter, CDM, addressed the Subcommittee on behalf of the Four County (Butte, Colusa, Glenn, and Tehama) proposal and introduced Lester Messina of Glenn County. Lou explained that regional water quality coordination is needed because the counties share the American River and the Tuscan groundwater aquifer. The planning process, draft outline of the document, project progress, and outreach efforts were discussed. Lou reviewed project findings to date, which include assessments of current activities in the region (local, regional and state) and the objectives of the Central Valley Regional Drinking Water Policy. It was explained that the Strategy will focus on the “source improvement” and “local sources” boxes (left-side) of the ELPH diagram. A comparison of different types of agreements/organizational structures was made and it was determined that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be the best way for the four counties to coordinate. Current water systems, current water sources, and future water systems and sources will be identified in the Strategy. Major groundwater contaminants of concern for each county were discussed, as were current monitoring programs. Lou stated that the strategy will assess the quality of water through these monitoring programs and will draft specific actions to deal with the issues.

Tom Zuckerman commented about the common denominator of the strategy —the Tuscan aquifer—and if Shasta, Yuba, or Sutter counties could also be included in future efforts.

In response to a question from Pankaj Parekh about concern over meeting ROD targets, Lou commented that very local problems might result in exceeding targets, but current monitoring programs do not indicate that this is a large problem regionally.

Jennifer Clary asked about stakeholders and public involvement. Stakeholders include agency representatives, water purveyors, and members of the public. Glenn Messina estimated that 70 people attended the first public meeting with an equal amount of representation from each county.

The Strategy Team was asked to please stay connected with the development of the CVDWP and to inform the Subcommittee of its relationship with the strategy. The team was also requested to consider impacts to the Sacramento River.

Aaron Ferguson asked where nitrates are a problem and how. It was explained that in the Chico area, nitrate levels are deep in range and elevated numbers have been detected in water quality. There are many shallow domestic wells in rural areas with septic tanks, and this is worrisome to the counties. Dave Spath, DHS, added that it could also be of concern if/when a municipality plans to treat a large area.

Southern California Integrated Regional Drinking Water Quality Plan

Lynda Smith, MWD, addressed the Subcommittee on behalf of the Southern California Regional Drinking Water Quality Plan. Lynda explained that the plan is being developed by the Mono Lake Committee, the Southern California Water Dialogue, and a strategy group. Members of the strategy group include Los Angeles DWP, Long Beach WD, Mojave Water Agency, Sweetwater Authority (San Diego County WA), Cucamonga Valley WD (Inland Empire UA), and MWD. Results from a survey developed by CH2M HILL will be the base of the plan, which will suggest regional strategies adhering to draft criteria. Lynda explained that the participating agencies obtain water from one of three sources (SWP, Los Angeles Aqueduct, Colorado River Aqueduct), and that groundwater is also of growing importance to the region. Lynda described the numerous projects/policies that influence Southern California water quality, including DIP, the CVDWP, San Joaquin Valley water quality exchanges (such as Friant), and southern California water treatment upgrades. The plan includes seven draft criteria that were used in analyzing strategy benefits. Ten preliminary strategies have been identified as integrated and cost-effective. Lynda finished her presentation with lessons learned in thus far in the process, the next steps of the plan's development, and a list of future outreach workshops.

Dave Spath asked if the plan would consider impacts to other regions, particularly in the case of groundwater and Friant. Lynda agreed to consider a simple analysis in the plan. Later in the meeting, Jennifer Clary requested that a presentation about Friant be provided to the DWS. The environmental justice community is concerned over potential impacts of these exchanges, and it was suggested to coordinate the presentation so that members of the EJS could attend.

Tom Zuckerman recommended including a map with a population overlay.

In response to questions from Jennifer Clary, Lynda and Pankaj Parekh confirmed that the plan is attempting to use all tools possible to address groundwater and manage runoff while examining 'hot spots' as well as priority investments.

The group discussed other water agencies that might wish to be included in the plan after the first phase is completed in May. It was explained that while the plan definitely wants to expand in the second phase, participating agencies ideally should be connected and committed to CALFED. Dave Spath suggested including Mojave WD and others southern water districts that are experiencing rapid growth. Lynda commented that many of the other districts participate in the Southern California Water Dialogue, so they are involved peripherally. Steve Macaulay suggested that the plan consider Santa Barbara's unique water quality problems. Lisa Holm commented additional agencies will be considered for all projects after the initial deadline and review this summer.

Bay Area Water Quality and Supply Reliability Program

Lisa Holm informed the Subcommittee that a representative from the Bay Area plan was unable to attend the meeting. Cindy Darling from ABAG is coordinating the effort. The Subcommittee was asked to review the PowerPoint presentation and prepare questions for a later date. Jennifer Clary commented that her organization has not been involved and wondered about stakeholder involvement for the Plan. In response to a question, Greg Gartrell explained that the watershed served by CCWD is divided, which is why they are involved in the Delta and Bay Area plans.

Multi-Year Program Plan

Lisa Holm updated the Subcommittee on additions to the second draft of the Multi-Year Program Plan. New components include finance tables, performance measures, a science section, and revamped Accomplishment/Activities tables. Still missing are a map and schedule, program assessment statistics/recommendations, and an EJ/Tribal outreach discussion. Lisa reported that Brown & Caldwell is nearing completion on these last two tasks. She reported what's changing in the MYPP and the next steps of its development. The Subcommittee was asked to identify major outstanding program issues and other comments on the MYPP by April 22. The revised draft will be available before the next DWS meeting (scheduled for 5/19) and it should be adopted by the Authority at their June meeting.

The Subcommittee discussed the Finance Tables. It was suggested to footnote the tables with a comment indicating that requests for funding could change after input from the regional plans. Pankaj Parekh stressed the need to have funding available for projects that have been planned. Tom Zuckerman commented that CALFED may need to break up the funding into its five regions instead of funding by Program. He recommended that Steering Committee, comprised of the Subcommittee chairs and headed by BDPAC chair Gary Hunt, should reconvene to discuss coordination between programs.

Action Item: Greg Gartrell will suggest to Gary Hunt to reconvene the Steering Committee.

Surface Storage Multi-Year Program Plan

Pal Sandhu, DWR staff representing the CALFED Surface Storage program, shared with the DWS a summary of the Surface Storage draft Multi-Year Program Plan. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available on the Water Quality Program web site.

Six surface storage projects were identified for further investigation in the ROD: Shasta Lake reservoir expansion, North-of-the-Delta offstream storage, In-Delta storage, Los Vaqueros reservoir expansion, Upper San Joaquin River basin storage, and San Luis Los Point improvement project. For each project, Pal explained the key accomplishments, water quality issues and benefits, common assumptions, and modeling results to date. State and Federal budget figures for the projects were discussed.

Pankaj Parekh commented that baseline parameters for Los Vaqueros would be helpful and should be qualified.

In response to a question, Pal confirmed that Upper San Joaquin storage is being investigated in addition to Friant. The project could be an expansion of the Friant effort. Jennifer Clary commented that Los Vaqueros looks more appealing than some of the other storage projects.

Conveyance Multi-Year Program Plan

Don Kursoka, DWR staff representing the CALFED Conveyance program, provided an overview of the Conveyance Program Plan to the group. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available on the Water Quality Program web site.

Don explained that ten projects are being reviewed actions related to the South Delta, North Delta, CVP/SWP Intertie, and others. The schedule, budget, and comments for each project were highlighted. Don explained that major activities planned for years 6-9 for each project involve

either completing environmental documents, constructing facilities, continuing studies, evaluating, or reevaluating projects such as the Clifton Court fish screens and Tracy fish test facility. Major program issues include funding commitments and schedule delays.

Vicki Fry asked how operations affect available water quality. Don explained that they are examining improvements to water quality through modeling. Studies are still being conducted. Once completed, a draft report will be distributed to the DWS.

Jennifer Clary requested a table that compares the different projects and their benefits.

Don provided a brief explanation of the Through-Delta Facility for meeting participants in response to a question about it.

Public Comment

There was no comment from the public.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the DWS will be on May 19 in conjunction with the Ecosystem Restoration Program Subcommittee. Lisa Holm indicated that the DWS Program Assessment Plan would be one of the items discussed at the next meeting. An agenda will be developed shortly. Jennifer Clary requested that copies of the ERP Program Plan be provided in advance to DWS members.

It was asked that whenever a meeting deviates from the regular meeting time (4th Friday each month from 9:30 to 12:30), to please inform Subcommittee members immediately as a courtesy to those traveling from Southern California.

Partial List of Attendees for the DWS Meeting 4-1-05

The following Subcommittee members participated the meeting:

1. Jennifer Clary
2. Aaron Ferguson
3. Vicki Fry
4. Greg Gartrell
5. Steve Macaulay
6. Robert Neufeld
7. Pankaj Parekh
8. David Tompkins
9. Tom Zuckerman

Other meeting participants:

10. Elaine Archibald
11. Elizabeth Borowiec
12. Kathy Caldwell
13. Keith Conarroe
14. Christy Consolini
15. Bill Crooks
16. Marshall Davert

17. Richard Denton
18. Patricia Fernadez
19. Steve Ford
20. Sam Harader
21. Lisa Holm
22. Karen Larsen
23. Eugenia Laychak
24. G. Fred Lee
25. Lester Messina
26. Lou Regenmorter
27. Pal Sandhu
28. Karen Schwinn
29. Lynda Smith